Amendments to the Claims

1   Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of improving resource distribution to network-

2   connected devices, comprising steps of:

3   determining whether a requester of a resource distribution job should receive the

4   resource distribution job, further comprising steps of:

5   determining a job-specific execution window applicable to this resource

6   distribution job;

7   by computing determining a requester-specific execution window comprising an

8   earliest time during the job-specific execution window when the job is available to [[the]] this

9   requester; and

10   concluding that the requester should receive the job if the requester's request is

11   processed during the requester-specific execution window, and that the requester should not

12   receive the job otherwise; and

13   distributing the requested resource distribution job to the requester if so.

1   Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein class membership of a

2   class of the requester is used in the step of determining [[step]] the requester-specific execution

3   window.

1   Claim 3 (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the class membership is based

2   upon a device type of a device of the requester.

Serial No. 09/892,585   -5-   RSW920010088US1

1   Claim 4 (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the class membership is based

2   upon software installed on a device of the requester.

1   Claim 5 (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the class membership is based

2   upon one or more characteristics of users who may request the resource distribution job.

1   Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the class membership is based

2   upon one or more characteristics of a device from which the job was requested.

1   Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the class membership is based

2   upon one or more properties of a network connection over which the job was requested.

1   Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the properties of the network

2   connection include (1) a bandwidth of the network connection and (2) a cost of the network

3   connection.

1   Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the class membership

2   is based upon one or more characteristics of an environment in which the job was requested.[[.]]

1   Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of

2   installing resources of the distributed resource distribution job on the requester.

Serial No. 09/892,585   -6-   RSW920010088US1

1   Claim 11 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein class membership of

2   a subclass of which the requester is a member is used in the step of determining [[step]] the

3   requester-specific execution window.

1   Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of

2   determining a requester-specific execution window computing the earliest time uses an ordinal

3   number associated with a device of the requester.

1   Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of

2   determining a requester-specific execution window computing the earliest time uses a current

3   time in microseconds of receiving the request for the resource distribution job.

1   Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of

2   determining a requester-specific execution window computing the earliest time uses a random

3   number.

1   Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of improving scheduling of jobs for network-

2   connected devices, comprising steps of:

3   determining whether a job-specific execution window applicable to a job requested

4   by a job requester; of a job should receive the job by computing

5   determining a requester-specific execution window comprising an earliest time during the

6   job-specific execution window when the job is available to [[the]] this requester; and

Serial No. 09/892,585   -7-   RSW920010088US1

7 distributing the job to the requester only if the requester-specific execution window

8 earliest time has been reached.

1 Claim 16 (original): The method according to Claim 15, wherein a particular one of the jobs

2 comprises fetching inventory information related to the requester's computing device from that

3 device.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): A method of improving resource distribution to network-

2 connected devices, comprising steps of:

3   determining whether a resource distribution job is available for a particular device;

4   determining an interval over which the available job may be performed; [[and]]

5   determining an earliest time in the interval when the available job may be executed for

6 the particular device; and

7   allowing the available job to be performed for or by the particular device only if the

8 earliest time has been reached.

Claim 18 (canceled)

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): A system for improving resource distribution to network-

2 connected devices, comprising:

3   means for determining whether a requester of a resource distribution job should receive

4 the resource distribution job, further comprising:

Serial No. 09/892,585   -8-   RSW920010088US1

5   means for determining a job-specific execution window applicable to this resource

6   distribution job;

7   means for determining a requester-specific execution window comprising by

8   computing an earliest time during the job-specific execution window when the job is available to

9   [[the]] this requester; and

10   means for concluding that the requester should receive the job if the requester's

11   request is processed during the requester-specific execution window, and that the requester

12   should not receive the job otherwise; and

13   means for distributing the requested resource distribution job to the requester if so.

1   Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer program product for improving resource distribution

2   to network-connected devices, the computer program product embodied on one or more

3   computer-usable media and comprising:

4   computer readable program code means for determining whether a requester of a resource

5   distribution job should receive the resource distribution job, further comprising:

6   computer readable program code means for determining a job-specific execution

7   window applicable to this resource distribution job;

8   computer readable program code means for determining a requester-specific

9   execution window comprising by computing an earliest time when the job is available to [[the]]

10   this requester; and

11   computer readable program code means for concluding that the requester should

12   receive the job if the requester's request is processed during the requester-specific execution

Serial No. 09/892,585   -9-   RSW920010088US1

13   window, and that the requester should not receive the job otherwise; and

14   computer readable program code means for distributing the requested resource

15   distribution job to the requester if so.

1   Claim 21 (original): A method of doing business by improving distribution of resources to

2   network-connected devices, comprising steps of:

3   receiving one or more requests for resource distribution; and

4   processing each received request, further comprising steps of:

5   determining a class from which the request was received;

6   using the class to determine an earliest execution time for a requester from which

7   the request was received; and

8   distributing the requested resource distribution to the requester if the earliest

execution time has been reached.

Serial No. 09/892,585   -10-   RSW920010088US1